

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 NEA-09 DLOS-03

L-02 OFA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 CEQ-01

EPA-01 INT-05 DODE-00 SMI-01 OIC-02 IO-10 AGR-05 /082 W

----- 097717

R 180738Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5306

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1700

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652(N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, TBIO, AS

SUBJ: 27TH ANNUAL MEETING, INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

(IWC), JUNE 23-27, LONDON

REF: (A) CANBERRA 1426 (B) STATE 46073

1. SUMMARY: BOLLEN OFFICIALLY INFORMS US GOA WILL NOT SUPPORT
TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM. END SUMMARY.

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2. BOLLEN, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FISHERIES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS SENT EMBASSY MARCH 14 LETTER OFFICIALLY RESPONDING TO OUR MARCH 4 LETTER, WHICH QUERIED GOA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT, REINTRODUCTION OF TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM PROPOSAL AND OTHER ISSUES CONNECTED WITH IWC MEETING NEXT JUNE. BOLLEN'S LETTER CONFIRMS UNOFFICIAL RESPONSE GIVEN EMBASSY MARCH 4 (REF A).

3. SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF LETTER FOLLOW:

QUOTE AS YOU ARE AWARE THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" WAS BASED UPON REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY UNITED STATES OFFICIALS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE IWC EARLY IN 1974, AND EVENTUALLY FINALISED BY CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION. IN VIEW OF THIS WE WOULD ASSUME THAT THE USA HAVING VOTED FOR THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" LAST YEAR WILL CONTINUE TO WHOLE-HEARTEDLY SUPPORT IT IN THE FUTURE.

IT IS PLEASING TO SEE THAT THE UNITED STATES HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO USE THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" AS A VEHICLE TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF WHALE STOCKS. NATURALLY WE SHARE THIS VIEW.

AS YOU KNOW THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE IS OVERSEAS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. HOWEVER, I AM CONFIDENT IT IS HIS INTENTION THAT HAVING INTRODUCED THE AMENDMENT WITH SUCH ENCOURAGING SUPPORT, THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION SHOULD MAKE EVERY ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION. THEREFORE WE COULD NOT CHANGE OUR POSITION CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT AND SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES IF IT AGAIN PROPOSED A TEN YEAR MORATORIUM. IN FACT, PLACING THE TEN YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING IT (SIC) COULD RAISE DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF SOME OF THE COMMISSIONERS AS TO THE POSSIBLE SUCCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT". AS A RESULT, WE MAY FIND OURSELVES CONTINUING WITH THE PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY SYSTEM OF ALLOCATING WHALE QUOTAS.

AS YOU KNOW I WAS IN JAPAN LAST MONTH TO ASSIST IN THE SELECTION OF A SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY FOR THE IWC. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILST IN TOKYO TO DISCUSS JAPAN'S POSITION IN REGARD TO THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" WITH COMMISSIONER I. FUJITA. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS WERE CONTINUING THEIR STUDY OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S LA JOLLA REPORT AND WOULD BE SUGGESTING SOME MINOR AMENDMENTS WHEN THE COMMITTEE MEETS IN LONDON ON 16 JUNE. THIS INDICATED TO ME THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS ANXIOUS TO FIND A SATISFACTORY REGIME SO THAT THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.

IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION POSED IN (B) OF YOUR LETTER THIS
DEPENDS UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
IN LONDON AND THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE DIFFERENT COMMISSIONERS.
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I AM UNABLE TO COMMENT. END QUOTE

4. QUESTION POSED IN (B) OF EMBASSY'S LETTER WAS QUESTION IN
PARAGRAPH 7(C) OF REF (B).

HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, AMENDMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER01700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750094-0001
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750342/aaaablcw.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 1426, 75 STATE 46073
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 27TH ANNUAL MEETING, INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC), JUNE 23-27, LONDON
TAGS: SENV, OCON, TBIO, AS, IWC-1
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006